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the same ground and "strike it rich." But it is also well understood that the average professional geologist very much underrates the practical experience and "signs" of the prospector, and vice versa. If each would condescend to grasp and use the knowledge of the other in conjunction with his own, then better results would be obtained and mutual respect would exist between geologists and prospectors, which it can not be said to do to-day.

And although I am sure the abundance or sparsity of *Eriogonum ovalifolium* is no sign as to the presence or the absence of silver or other metal in the soil (for it grows in any formation, lime, sandstone, etc.), I would not presume to say the same of other "indicating plants," individually unknown to me.—F. W. ANDERSON, *Great Falls, Montana*.

Some western plants.—In examining some western collections recently, an interesting fact or two with respect to the range of certain plants has been brought to light. *Phlox Richardsonii* Hook., of the Arctic sea-coast, was found by Mr. F. W. Anderson, in May of this year, growing in great abundance upon Mt. Helena, Montana. It had previously been discovered by Scribner in the Belt Mountains, Montana. Mr. W. M. Canby's corps, on their northern transcontinental survey, discovered a form of *Trautvetteria palmata*, and now it turns up from Idaho, collected by J. B. Leiberg. *Pentstemon Lyallii* Gray, of British Columbia, and extending into the borders of Montana, has been sent in by Mr. J. B. Leiberg from Kootenai county, Idaho, growing on rocky banks, 3,000 to 6,000 feet altitude.—JOHN M. COULTER.

EDITORIAL.

A FEW writers are inclined to scatter their thoughts before the public with a too lavish hand. Facts of interest secured in an investigation are arranged to be presentable and ushered into the presence of the public through the medium of some society or journal. Without adding materially to the number of facts the language with which they are clothed is readjusted and another society or journal receives them. This shifting may be repeated several times, and the facts turn up in various places. Each time the reader, if not on his guard, will naturally suppose he is perusing the first and only statement of the kind, there being nothing to indicate that the author has already published other versions of the same matter. We do not have in mind the case where a paper read before a society is printed in a magazine to secure earlier publication, reference being made to the time and place of its first presentation; or to the case where an article is reprinted in one or more journals, due credit being given; or the case where an author writes up a part of a